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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

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SUBJECT Purges in the Czech Army

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1. The Communists endeavored to purge the Czech Army of all hostile elements. Officers to be purged were divided into the following three categories:

- (a) Dangerous
- (b) Undesirable
- (c) Tolerable

Dangerous

2. Under this category were officers who engaged in anti-Communist plots or who deviated from the Communist Party line as dictated from Moscow, ie, the attempt by Clementis, Svermova, et al to pattern the regime along the lines of Marshal Tito's. Also in this category were those officers who, during the last two wars, had served in the army of any western power or in a Czech military unit subordinated

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to any western power; officers who were abroad in the Czech Military Mission, or, as reserve officers, were representatives for some trade commission, or representatives of private enterprise, if they were implicated in some anti-Communist activities and/or closely cooperated with the western country.

3. Those in this category who were considered to be most dangerous were court-martialled, shot, and their property was confiscated. Those considered to be less dangerous were court-martialled, deprived of their ranks, civil rights, property, pensions, and imprisoned. Prison sentences ran as high as 25 years at hard labor; usually the sentences were served in the uranium or coal mines or stone quarries.
4. An illustration of the first category is the case of four officers who were arrested in Pelhrimov (4926N-1514E) in the Spring of 1949.

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These four officers were part of a political movement, headed by a Gen (fnu) Hasal from Prague, to overthrow the Communist regime. The uprising was to have taken place between 5 and 9 May 49, and allegedly S/Capt Jaroslav Janda was selected to lead the movement in the county of Pelhrimov. Somewhere in Prague, however, the secret was discovered and mass arrests began. According to information circulated in Pelhrimov, Gen Hasal was shot in Prague. On or about 5 May 49, the military intelligence agents came to Pelhrimov and arrested Janda. Presumably some notes bearing the names of other conspirators were found in his possession. After two or three days the rest of the group in Pelhrimov was arrested; they were: Maj/Inf Jiri Valek, S/Capt/Inf Josef Kaduc, and S/Capt/Inf (fnu) Holna.

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S/Capt Janda was said to have been court-martialled in Prague and shot; Maj Valek was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment and is reported being held in the military prison at Opava; S/Capt Kaduc was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment and is being held in the military prison at Opava; S/Capt Holna was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

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5. Another officer who was purged under this category was Capt/Inf (fnu) Budinsky.

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Budinsky was sentenced to 17 years at hard labor

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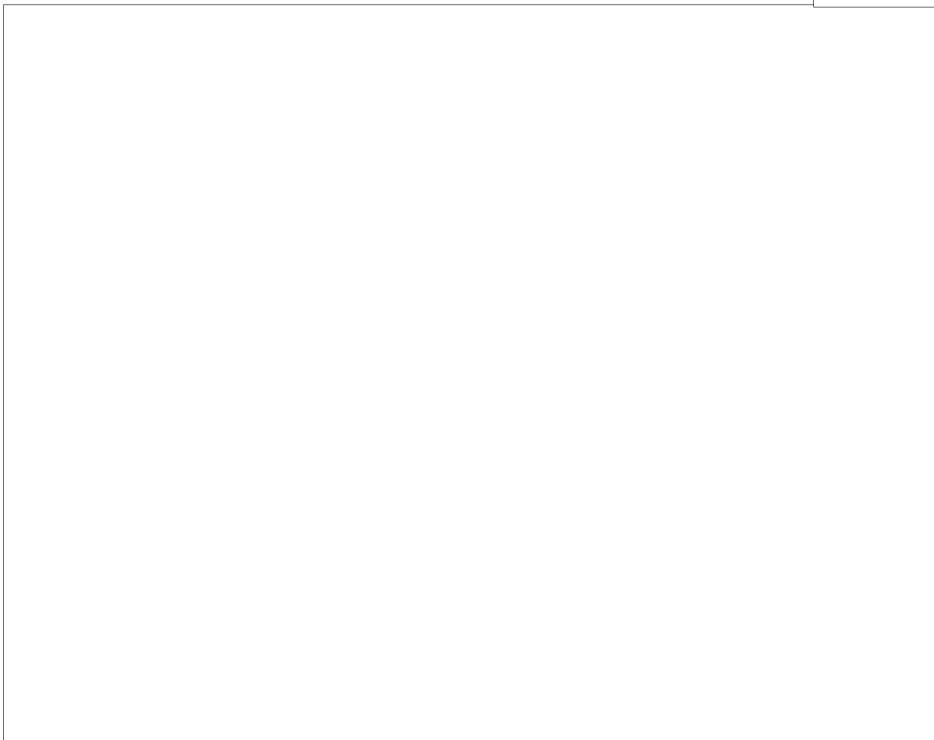
Undesirable

6. In this category were officers who, for varied reasons, were considered to be politically unreliable. Also in this category were older officers who had served in the army under the government of Masaryk and Benes. These officers were not considered sufficiently pliable to conform with the Communist regime.
7. Officers considered politically unreliable, yet not dangerous were discharged from the Army and were given sentences ranging from two to five years. After having served their sentences, their civil rights might be reinstated and their property might be returned. Older officers, otherwise in good standing but considered unreliable because they did not readily accept Communist idealism, were being discharged sometimes without pension privileges. Their property and civil rights might have remained unmolested. No hard and fast rule could be applied to this category because of the so-called human element in each particular case.
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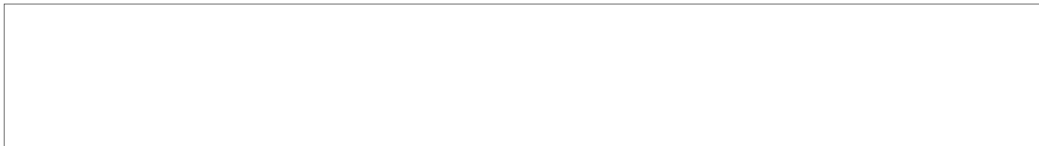
Toleratis

9. In this category were officers who were considered doubtful but who were, for some reason, tolerated by the present regime. Examples of this category are officers who belonged to the National Socialist Party under President Benes, but because of their personal and military records, and lack of suitable replacements, were tolerated until a replacement was available, as well as officers who had close relatives abroad.

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Officers who corresponded with relatives abroad were automatically placed under suspicion and constant surveillance. Promotions of officers in this category were greatly retarded. Officers who corresponded with relatives abroad had to report to the security authorities any information which might be injurious to the security of the state, or information which might be beneficial to the security of the state. The secret police might search a house and go through personal mail. If the police found as much as a hint about the attitude of the people of a foreign country regarding war and peace, the addressee would be automatically considered guilty of failure to report that information. An excuse that the addressee did not consider the information sufficiently important to notify STB was not accepted; there was no recourse to legal protection.

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